

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks that follow.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-16, and 18-31 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 5. Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled in light of the amendment of claim 1. Claim 2 has also been cancelled in light of the amendment to claim 1, and claim 3 has been amended to correct dependency in light of the cancellation of claim 2. New claims 28-31 have been added herein. New independent claim 28 is similar in scope to cancelled claim 2, with the additional recitation that the second section of filter material comprises a fibrous tow. Support for the new claim may be found throughout the specification and in the original claims, such as on pages 16 and 24-25. New dependent claims 29-31 are substantially identical to one or more previous claims of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully note that no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Claims 1-4, 8-14, 18-22, and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,635,226 to Horsewell *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,545,345 to Aronson. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter originally found in claim 5, which was not implicated in this rejection. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon clearly fall outside the scope of the rejection. Additionally, Applicants believe that claim 27 was erroneously included in this rejection. Claim 27 is similar to claim 5 in that claim 27 recites the presence of two sections of filter material defining a compartment therebetween. Such a filter construction is clearly not envisioned in the primary reference cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicants additionally note that new independent claim 28 is distinct from the cited art of record. The new independent claim recites a filter configuration comprising two sections of filter material, wherein one section of filter material is a fibrous tow, such as a cellulose acetate tow, having an adsorbent material dispersed therein. Such a filter construction is neither taught nor suggested in the art cited by the Examiner. For instance, the Horsewell reference relied upon by the Examiner suggests the use of a water-absorbent filter section comprising paper or paper wadding that may optionally be treated with a filtration-enhancing additive. There is no suggestion in the Horsewell patent to form a cigarette filter wherein a fibrous tow section of filter material has an adsorbent dispersed therein. In particular, there is no such suggestion in the Horsewell patent that the water-absorbent filter section described therein may comprise a fibrous tow. Indeed, the patent instead suggests that such a filter section would instead be suitable for the "nonabsorbent" section of the filter (column 1, lines 15-18; column 2, lines 13-16). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are also patentable over the cited art.

It is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions in order to expedite examination of this case.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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